

PATENT--NO FEE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant:) I hereby certify that this
FULVIO BOLDRINI) paper is being deposited
Serial No.: 10/083,321) with the United States
Filed: February 26, 2002) Postal Service with suffi-
For: METHOD AND UNIT FOR) cient postage, as first
FORMING A TOBACCO BEAD) class mail, in an envelope
Attorney Docket No. 20022/38268) addressed to:
Group Art Unit: 1731) Commissioner for Patents
Examiner: Unassigned) Washington, D.C. 20231.
Dated: September 16, 2002
James J. Napoli
Registration No. 32,361
Attorney for Applicants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicant hereby brings to the examiner's attention patents that may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Therefore, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, applicant encloses a completed Form PTO-1449 listing the possibly pertinent patents and a copy of each patent.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months after the filing date of the above-identified application, and, to applicant's knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R.

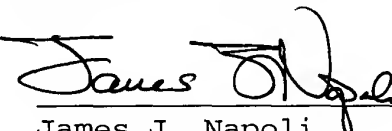
§1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

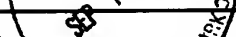
A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed for the convenience of the examiner and to complete the file.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

By 
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September 16, 2002

Form 1449PTO  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known		
Sheet				1	of	1
Application Number				10/083,321		
Filing Date				February 26, 2002		
First Named Inventor				Fulvio Boldrini		
Group Art Unit				1731		
Examiner Name				Unassigned		
Attorney Docket Number				20022/38268		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY
		4,693,262	09/15/87
		4,732,164	03/22/88

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY
		2,136,265 (UK)	09/19/84
		2,284,288 (FR)	07/26/77
		1,432,649 (DE)	12/15/65
		3631227 (DE)	07/04/89
		0399951 (EPO)	02/04/92
		0 974 276 (EPO)	01/26/00

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.